

CertAlert

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To: All FAR Part 139 Airports
Attention: Airfield Operations Department

VPDs - Beware of Contractors!

In the last week, there were two vehicle runway incursions caused by contractors working on the airport. In both incidents, the contractors received drivers' training and had valid airport identification. One contractor was doing electrical work and the other was an engineer preparing for a survey. Two in one week is too many. Fortunately, neither one resulted in a terrible accident, however, that was just fortunate. Take a moment to review the items below and see what you can do at your airport to enhance safety.

We would like to offer the following recommendations:

- Have strong consequences of non-compliance for contractors. Should they be increased?
- Include the airport rules and the consequences of non-compliance in your construction contracts.
- Ensure the airport diagram is correct. Are there any areas of the movement area that could be confusing to people who don't drive the airfield regularly? Has anything changed recently? Meet with tower personnel to discuss any recent issues.
- Review the airport rules and regulations regarding driving on the movement area. Are any changes or enhancements needed? Do you have separate rules and regulations for contractors? Could they be enhanced?
- Hold regular monthly safety meetings to discuss these issues and to get input from the users. Include contractors and others involved with driving on the airfield.
- Review procedures for tug drivers, contractors, and emergency operations' personnel (fire trucks, etc.).
- Always ask for everyone's assistance in enhancing airfield safety and preventing runway incursions. Find ways to remind tenants and contractors to drive carefully and always talk to the tower controller. Always ask for clearance. Read-back controller instructions. Ask for progressive instructions.
- Spread the word around the airport to all tenants/users. Prevent runway incursions!

If you have any questions or need additional information, call your airport certification safety inspector (ACSI).

-- from your Airport Certification and Safety Team.